§72105. Social Worker

(a) Clinical social worker means a person who is licensed as such by the California Board of Behavioral Science Examiners.

(b) Social work assistant means a person with a baccalaureate degree in the social sciences or related fields and who receives supervision, consultation and in-service training from a social worker.

(c) Social work aide means a staff person with orientation, on-the-job training, and who receives supervision from a social worker or social work assistant.


§72401. Optional Service Units—General.

...(b) The following types of optional service units may be operated in a skilled nursing facility: physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, speech pathology, audiology, social work services, and special treatment program services.

Authority cited: Sections 208(a) and 1275, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Section 1276, Health and Safety Code.

§72433. Social Work Service Unit—Services

(a) "Social work services" means those services which assist staff, a patient and a patient's family to understand and cope with a patient's personal, emotional and related health and environmental problems.

(b) Social work services unit shall include but not be limited to the following:

(1) Interview and written assessment of each patient within five days after admission to the service.

(2) Development of a plan, including goals and treatment, for social work services for each patient who needs such services, with participation of the patient, the family, the patient's physician, the director of nursing services and other appropriate staff.
(3) Weekly progress reports in the patient’s health record written and signed by the social worker, social work assistant or social work aide.

(4) Participation in regular staff conferences with the attending physician, the director of nursing service and other appropriate personnel.

(5) Discharge planning for each patient and implementation of the plan.

(6) Orientation and in-service education of other staff members on all shifts shall be conducted at least monthly by the social worker in charge of the social work service.

Authority cited: Sections 208(a) and 1275, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Section 1276, Health and Safety Code.


(a) Each social work service unit shall have written policies and procedures for the management of the social work service.

(b) The policies and procedures shall be established and implemented by the patient care policy committee in consultation with a social worker.

Authority cited: Sections 208(a) and 1275, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Section 1276, Health and Safety Code.

§72437. Social Work Service Unit—Staff

(a) Each social work service unit shall employ a staff for the number of hours to meet the needs of the patients.

(b) The social work service unit shall be organized, directed and supervised by a social worker, who is responsible for supervision of other social work staff, including social work assistants and social work aides.

(c) Social work service staff may include the social work assistant or the social work aide. Assigned functions and tasks shall be supervised by the social worker. Under conditions specified in the written patient care policies, procedures and job descriptions, the social work aide may be under the supervision of the social work assistant.

Authority cited: Sections 208(a) and 1275, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Section 1276, Health and Safety Code.

§72439. Social Work Service Unit—Equipment and Supplies.

(a) Office equipment and supplies necessary for the social work service unit shall be available.
(b) Equipment and supplies shall include but not be limited to:

(1) Literature and references on subjects including psychosocial problems and needs of the patient population in the facility.

(2) Directories, listings and other reference materials on available community resources.

(3) Necessary clerical equipment and supplies.

Authority cited: Sections 208(a) and 1275, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Section 1276, Health and Safety Code.

§72441. Social Work Service Unit—Space.

Accessible space shall be provided for privacy in interviewing, telephoning, conferences and for operation of the unit.

Authority cited: Sections 208(a) and 1275, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Section 1276, Health and Safety Code.

§72465. Special Treatment Program Service Unit—Staff

...(f) Interdisciplinary Professional Staff: The facility shall provide either through direct employment or by contractual arrangement, an interdisciplinary professional staff to develop and implement special rehabilitation programs and to provide specific expertise to the program staff, and/or provide direct patient services.

(1) The interdisciplinary professional staff shall be composed of at least two of the following disciplines:

(A) Psychologist

(B) Social Worker

(C) Occupational therapist

(D) Recreation therapist

(E) Art therapist

(F) Dance therapist

(G) Music therapist

(H) Any other related discipline approved by the Department

(2) Each member of the interdisciplinary professional staff shall have a minimum of one year of experience or training in a mental health setting.
§72467. Special Treatment Program Service Unit--Program Director.

(a) The facility shall have a program director who has been approved by the Department of Mental Health. The program director shall not be the director of nursing service, charge nurse or facility administrator.

(b) The program director shall have at least two years experience or training in a mental health setting, one year of which shall include experience or training in program development for mentally disordered.

(c) The program director shall ensure that the in-service education program is provided.

(d) The program director shall be one of the following:

1) Licensed vocational nurse.

2) Art therapist.

3) Dance therapist.

4) Music therapist.

5) Occupational therapist.

6) Physician.

7) Licensed psychiatric technician.

8) Licensed psychologist.

9) Recreation therapist.

10) Registered nurse.

11) Social worker.

12) Any other related discipline approved by the Department of Mental Health.

Authority cited: Sections 208(a) and 1275, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Section 1276, Health and Safety Code.